



USAID | **GUATEMALA**
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Visit of Paul Bonicelli AA/LAC



Paul J. Bonicelli, PhD., was confirmed by the Senate on May 25, 2007, as Assistant Administrator for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United States Agency for International Development.

Prior to this appointment, he served since October 3, 2005 as Deputy assistant Administrator for the Bureau for Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance at USAID.

As Deputy Assistant Administrator, Bonicelli was responsible for USAID's democracy and governance programs and chaired the State Department's Governing Justly and Democratically interagency committee for the Director of Foreign Assistance. He oversaw coordination of foreign assistance for democracy promotion and good governance, working in particular with the various bureaus of the State Department and the National Security Council.

Bonicelli's previous government service includes working as a professional staff member for the International Relations Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives. Bonicelli also served intermittently as a consultant to the Department of Labor's Bureau for International Labor Affairs, and in 2001 and 2002, he was tapped by the White House to serve as a private sector delegate to the United Nations where his task was to advocate for the Bush administration's policies.

Before joining the Bush administration at USAID, Bonicelli served six years as dean of academic affairs and associate professor of Government at Patrick Henry College in Purcellville, VA. As chief academic officer, he oversaw the development of the college's academic programs and recruited the faculty. He also taught foreign policy and comparative politics.

Previous academic service includes serving as assistant professor of Political Science at Grove City College (PA). Prior to receiving his doctorate at the University of Tennessee, he worked in electoral politics at the national level, and served as a researcher and analyst in Washington, DC.

Photos of Paul Bonicelli during his visit to Guatemala



Coffee Cupping at ANACAFE



Visit to Youth Outreach Centers in Zone 18



Visit to a shoe shining shop owned by ex-gang members



Visit to the construction of the new USAID building

In conjunction with his participation at the SICA Dialogue on Security, Dr. Bonicelli visited USAID programs – in the areas of democracy and governance, economic growth, education, and public-private alliances. He met with key Guatemalan counterparts such as the of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal, the Attorney General, the President of the Supreme Court, the Minister of Education, the Presidential Commissioner for the Reform of State and First Lady Mrs. Wende Berger. He visited the 24-hour court and was briefed on procedural improvements and systemic reforms in the judicial sector, Guatemala's progress against MCC indicators, the ISO 9001:2000 certification of the Ministry of Education, and the close partnership among the GOG, private sector, and

USAID in addressing malnutrition and poverty in the poorest communities of the country. The Charge hosted a dinner for him with the theme: CAFTA – One year later; wherein discussions included the successes, benefits, equity and growth issues related to increased trade and reduced trade barriers.

AA Bonicelli also visited projects in collaboration with private sector and NGO partners, including faith-based organizations working with youth at risk and former gang members. He visited a microenterprise managed by a former gang member and had candid conversations with ex-gang members. He visited the laboratory of the Forensic Anthropology Foundation of Guatemala which conducts exhumations/ inhumations and identification of victims of the internal armed conflict as well as the exhumation work in communities affected by Tropical Storm Stan. He was briefed on the transparency and participation of small coffee producers and the Geographic Information System for traceability and origin identification. The visit concluded with a demonstration of cupping coffees from the various regions of Guatemala, as part of the quality control process.

The mission was able to show him the USAID building under construction. A highlight of his visit was the animated exchange at the general staff meeting wherein he underscored that development is an important component of USG foreign policy and that his primary role as Assistant Administrator is to advocate for the region. He further noted that **"sustainable development requires good governance, but good governance requires democracy."**